A Coppie of a

LETTER,

Read in the House of

COMMONS:

SENT

From Master SAMPFORD,

High Sheriffe of the Countie of *Somerset*, and the Committee there, of their weekly proceedings, in searching the Recusants Houses.

Also the number of such Ammunition as was taken in their Houses, and sent to the Castle at Taunton

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Ordered to be Printed.

Hen. Elsyng, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

August 25.

Printed at *London* for *W. Ley.* 1642.

A Coppie of a

LETTER,

Read in the Houſe of

COMMONS:

SENT

From Malſter SAMFORD,

High Sheriffe of the Countie of Southampton, and the Committee there,

of their weekly proceedings, in ſearching the Recuſants Houſes.

Alſo the number of Peeces of Ammunition and Armes taken in their Houſes, and ſent to the Caſtle at Taunton

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Ordered to be Printed.

Hen. Elſyng, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

Printed at London for W. Ley. 1642.

A Copple of a Letter read in the house of Commons, sent from Master *Sampford*, high Sheriffe of the Countie of *Somerset*, and the Committee there, of their weekly *Proceedings, &c.*

Honourable Gentlemen,

WEE have sent you our Weeks taske, and an account of the service we were commanded by both Houses, *viz.*

IRST, on Munday, the fifteenth of *August*, early in the Morning wee with the attendants, of the Trained Bands came to *Taunton* none knowing our intent, (the Major excepted) after an houres respite, Baronet *Portman*, Mr. *Coles*, Mr. *Pyne*, and others were sent for by us, who immediately came and assisted us with Horse and Foot: Then after consultation

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wee searched one Master *Browne's* house, a Recusant, and found therein 60. mens Armour, and other Ammunition of Pike and Musquet: In Alderman *Skinner's* house twentie mens Armour of Pike and Musquet, in Master *Tucker's* house, the Receiver of the Bishop of Worcester's Rents, and Steward of his Courts, one hundred mens Armour for Horse and Foot, also two barrells of Gun-powder, fifty great Saddles, with shot of all sorts. Then we marched to the out-parishes, as Badford, Nuneare, Langford, and Wellington, and in Badford, searching Captaine *Collins* house, found therein ten mens Armour, and in Master *Eyton's* house of the same parish five mens Armour: at Nuneard, searching Master *Sheeres* house, found therein 40 mens Armour of pike and musquet: And at Langford, at Master *Prowses* house twenty mens Armour; and at Wellington in Master *Strawbridge's* house fifty mens Armour.

On Tuesday, the sixteen we marched to *Bridgwater*, where we were entertained by the Major and Aldermen, and found therein at some private gentlemens houses about sixty mens Armour, and other Ammunition, and left it in charge with the Major and Aldermen, to bee ready at the King and Parliaments command.

On Wednesday the seventeenth we marched to *Wels*, and comming within a mile of the Towne, wee were met by the Major and Aldermen, and accompanyed by them into the Towne, and quartered our selves, in searching two in each street, and began first and searched the Bishops house, but found nothing there. But in Doctor *Westons* house wee found neare upon one hundred mens Armour; in Esquire *Roses* house forty

mens

mens armour, in Esquire *Pollards* house forty mens Armour, in Maſter *Johnſons* house twenty mens armour: in Maſter *Tomkins* house fifty mens armour; and wee gave immediate charge to have them carryed to *Taunton* Caſtle, which was ſo done.

On Thurſday the 18, we marched to the City of Bath, accompanyed with Mr. *Barret* of Cotford, Maſter *Baſſet* Maſter *Harrington*, Maſter *Bampfield*, and others, and there ſearched Sir *George Ives* house but found none there, but one of his ſervants ſaid he had ſent all his Armour to *Sir Ralph Hopton's* house and was going thither to ſojourne with his wife and family: Then wee ſearched one Maſter *Coaſats* house, neare the Earle of *Rutlands* Caſtle, and found therein 100 mens armour, five light horſes, and ſufficient ammunition for twenty horſe more, and about 10000. pound in money: and afterward wee went to Sir *Edward Rodneys* house, where we concluded that ſome of us ſhould the next day with a ſufficient Company of Horſe and foot, ſearch theſe Townes here underwritten, *viz.*

Glaſtenbury, Ilcheſter, Ilminſter.
Ilchipton Mallet, Chard, Crewkerne.
South and North Petherton, &c.

The Sheriffe requeſted that by reaſon of his age he might be excuſed of the ſaid attendance, and that his ſervants ſhould wait on them where they pleaſed, which was granted.

Sir *Edward Rodney* and Captaine *Brookes* immediatly ſent warrants for the Trained Bands about them to give their attendance the day following.

On

On Fryday the 19 two companies of foot came to Sir *Edward Rodney's* house and searched the Towne of Glastenbury, and found therein forty mens armour, and at the end of Glastenbury Downe in Farmer *Twists* house 100 mens armour of horse and foot, and after examination, confessed it was his Landlords armour, Sir *John Stowells*, and hath had it within this sixe weeks, nevertheless committed him to Ilchester Goale for his secresie.

This day also Mr. *Phillips*, Mr. *Light*, Mr. *Hodges*, & Mr. *Trevillion* met at Ilchester, and a Trained band attended on them and searched one Mr. *Vincents*, and Mr. *Forteſcues* houses, & found in each of them 40 mens armour a peice, and in Kingston parish being the Earle of Barkeshires were found in a barne 10 light horses, 100 Saddles 100 swords and 40 musquets which was immediately sent to Taunton. In Ilminster and Shipton Maller, there are divers other poore Recusants, but none able to buy or maintaine armes.

This day also at *Chard* there met Mr. *Martine*, Sr *Henry Rosewell*, Mr *Preston*, and Mr *Symes* who were accompanyied with the trained Bands, and searched the Parson of the Parish his house, and found there 50 mens Armour, in Mr *Coleman's* house 100 mens Armour, in *Sir William Button's* Ladies House 150 mens Armour, in Mr *Hill's* house 50 mens Armour, All which was likewise sent to Taunton Castle.

The same day Mr. *Meredith*, Mr. *Fowler* and others were appointed to search at Crookehorne and thereabou's, who came to the Lord *Paulet's* house, but the Gentry and servants therein would not obey their authoritie but bid them be gone otherwise they would

let bullets fly amongst them, and would not let any of the Trained Bands to enter the said house: Hereupon one of the Trained Band shott a bullett against the Port-house doore, nevertheless they would not open it, at length they brake it open and entred perforce & one of the Trained Band killed, there was above fifty persons therein Gentry and servants, there was fonnd 10 light horse and 150 mens Armour or thereabouts.

Then wee came to North and South Petherton & in *Sir John Cary's* house found 20 mens Armour; All which number of Armes amounting unto, *viz.*

Armour	1800	Light-horse	25
Saddles	150	Money	10000. *li.*

All which wee left in the Castle at Taunton under the Custody of the Maior and Aldermen of the said Towne with a sufficient guard for the safe keeping thereof.

Wee therefore humbly pray the Honourable Assembly in Parliament, that the Ammunition taken aforesaid may not be carried out of the County but that it may be distributed and imployed in the defence of the Countrey. And wee shall daily pray for the happy proceedings of both Houses.

From Bath, *August* 20. 1642.

Your affectionate friends,

H. Sampford. *J. Horner.*
I. Stroud. *A. Popham.*
F. Coles. *A. Pyne.*

Ordered to bee Printed.
Hen. Elsing Cler. Parl. D. Com.

FINIS.